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GLA-8557

ATTN: Chief, Foreign Division M
Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

23 October 1951

Operational

Not classified

BARTOK, Laszlo, Report by XX-1

1. WAGE has furnished the following biographical information on XX-1 which concerns particularly the background and relationships between XX-1 and subject, who is believed to have some connection with the Austrian station.

2. XX-1 was Chief of the Hungarian Mission at Vienna in December 1945 when he first met BARTOK, who was at the time travelling from Switzerland to Hungary. BARTOK stayed as a guest of XX-1 for two or three days.

3. When XX-1 made an official visit to Budapest in January 1946, he was informed by friends that BARTOK was intriguing against him with the object of succeeding him as Hungarian Envoy for Austria. This resulted from BARTOK's desire to secure a position outside of Hungary due to the internal existing conditions. Again in February 1946 the Hungarian Consul FULOP informed XX-1 that BARTOK would probably be successful in his efforts to get the Envoy post, and upon the return of XX-1 from leave in March 1946 he found a letter from the Hungarian Foreign Ministry ordering him to turn over his post to BARTOK on 5 April. Because of the hospitalization in Vienna of XX-1's wife at the time, XX-1 wrote BARTOK and requested a delay of 8 to 10 days before BARTOK assumed the new post. BARTOK turned down this request, and since that time the relationship between XX-1 and BARTOK has been what XX-1 diplomatically styles "cool". XX-1, as far as is known, did not return to Hungary after relinquishing his post, but remained in Austria.

4. Although probably already known in more detail, XX-1 provides the following fragmentary biographical information on BARTOK, which is passed on for what it is worth.

5. BARTOK is a 'diplomat par carrier', who before WW II served with the League of Nations and the Hungarian Consulate General of Bratislava. In 1942 he was 1st councillor with the Hungarian Legation at Zagreb, Jugo, where he was on excellent terms with Ante PAVELIC, who decorated him with a high Croatian distinction. During the latter part of WW II, BARTOK, for reasons concerned with the Aryan law left Zagreb for Switzerland, where he is believed to have taken up contact with the Western powers. He had full knowledge of the Hungarian secret depots in Switzerland which were under the control of Baron Gyorgy de BATHANY-BESSONNEY. 15 months after taking over the Vienna post of Hungarian Envoy, BARTOK was also recalled, but like XX-1, went into emigration, joining the Fomac group.

6. Merely because it was sent along by XX-1, a photostat copy of the reply
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from BARTOK to XI-1's request for a 10-day extension is attached.

7. Comments: There is believed to have been no contact between BARTOK and XI-1 since 1946, and relationships between the two are in all likelihood, very "cool". What appears a bit surprising is that XI-1's report on BARTOK is not nearly as vituperous as we have come to expect from emigre politicians who have had a falling-out.

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